The Migrant

A Quarterly Journal
Devoted To Tennessee Birds

Published by
The Tennessee
Ornithological
Society

DECEMBER 2018
Vol. 89, No. 4

THE MIGRANT
A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGY
Published by

THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
The TOS is a non-profit, educational, scientific and conservation organization.

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Tennessee Ornithological Society, 5886 Wilshire Drive, Nashville, TN 37215
Printed by: Russell Printing Options, 1800 Grand Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916
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THE MIGRANT

Published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society
to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Tennessee
Issued in March, June, September and December

VOL. 89 DECEMBER 2018 NO. 4

The Migrant 89(4): 117-119, 2018

STATUS OF THE SWALLOW-TAILED KITE IN TENNESSEE

Richard L. Knight
Johnson City, Tennessee

Swallow-tailed Kites (*Elanoides forficatus*) breed in the southeastern United States as well as in southern Mexico and southward into South America. The U.S. population currently breeds on the lower coastal plain from South Carolina to eastern Texas and migrates to wintering grounds in South America (Alderfer 2006). Historically this species nested further north, including along the Mississippi River drainage as far north as Minnesota and Ohio and probably nested in West Tennessee, but vanished from these northern regions by the early 1900s (Robertson 1988). Despite a small, but apparently stable, breeding population in the U.S., this species has shown a recent trend of increasing extralimital sightings in states north of its breeding range (Alderfer 2006). Herein I summarize the increased frequency of observations in Tennessee of this spectacular raptor.

Robinson (1990) cited just 11 records of Swallow-tailed Kites in Tennessee up to 1986. A literature search of *The Migrant* and *North American Birds* produced a total of at least 56 records in the state through 2017, a rather dramatic increase during the last three decades. Of this total, five records occurred from 1810 to 1933, with two records in the 1960s, one record in the 1970s, three records in the 1980s, and three records in the early 1990s. The period of greatest increase has been since 1999 with at least 42 records through 2017, a span of 19 years. Indeed, Swallow-tailed Kites have occurred in Tennessee annually since 1999 except for the years 2003 and 2004. The number of sightings per year of occurrence since 1999 has ranged from one to seven, with the greatest number in 2016.

Slightly over half of all sightings have come from East Tennessee (57%), with the remainder split evenly between West and Middle Tennessee (Table 1). Sightings have occurred in 30 counties. The Sequatchie Valley portion of Bledsoe and Sequatchie counties has hosted these kites seven times, more than any other location in the state. Most reports (80%) in the state have been of a single bird. The highest counts in the state were ten kites in Bledsoe County in August 2012 (Knight 2012), eight to ten in Obion County in August

1886 (Yeatman 1965), and up to seven in August 2016 again in Bledsoe County (Knight 2017).

Sightings of Swallow-tailed Kites in Tennessee have occurred in two distinct seasons, spring and late summer to early autumn (combined here as "fall"). Spring reports have ranged from 10 April to 16 June, while fall reports have ranged from 6 July to 25 September. The majority of sightings have occurred in the fall period (80%, Table 1), with most in the first three weeks of August. Spring sightings generally are considered to be over-shooting migrants, while reports in fall represent post-breeding dispersal. Of Tennessee sightings since 1968, nearly three quarters were observed on just a single day. All nine modern spring sightings have been of a single kite seen on just one day, perhaps not surprising for individuals apparently still migrating. The longest stay by Swallow-tailed Kites at one location in the fall is for 25 days in August 2012 in Bledsoe County (Knight 2012), although there likely was some turnover of individuals during this span.

Most sightings in Tennessee have come from river valleys with a mix of woodlands and open fields where the kites can hunt for large aerial insects. However, these kites have been seen from mountain tops, too, such as Camp Creek Bald in Greene County (Lewis 2007). Therefore, early season hawk-watching from traditional ridge-top sites could produce additional sightings.

The growth in numbers of birders in recent decades and the greater awareness of kite distribution by the birding community may have contributed to the increase in the number of Swallow-tailed Kite sightings in Tennessee. Also, the distribution of birders within the state may have skewed the regional distribution of kite sightings somewhat. Nevertheless, it is evident from the data presented here that a genuine increase in Swallow-tailed Kites has occurred in the state.

Table 1. Regional and Seasonal Distribution of Swallow-tailed Kites in Tennessee.

	Number of Records	Percent of Total
West Tennessee	12	21
Middle Tennessee	12	21
East Tennessee	32	57
Spring	10	18
Fall	45	80
Unknown	1	2

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LATE NESTING KILLDEER IN HAMILTON COUNTY

David A. Aborn
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) are common breeding birds throughout Tennessee (Somershoe and Sloan 2015). Nesting in Tennessee typically commences in February, with most eggs laid in March and April, and breeding is usually completed by the end of the summer (Nicholson 1997). On 19 November 2017, I received a phone text of a Killdeer nesting at a church playground in Chattanooga. The text included a picture of what looked like four Killdeer eggs in a shallow scrape in the gravel, as well as video of a bird doing the broken-wing distraction display. On 20 November, I went to the church to verify the nest, which was indeed a Killdeer nest (Figs. 1). I cordoned off an area around the nest with red flagging tape so that the nest would not get stepped on by anyone using the playground. I monitored the nest one to two times per week thereafter. When I checked on 3 December one egg was missing, but the other three were present and intact, and the adult was doing the distraction display. When I checked the nest on 12 December, there were two eggs in the nest and about 50 m away the adult was brooding a 1-2 day old chick. The eggs were cold and were presumably either abandoned by the adult soon after the chick hatched or were infertile. Adults and chicks typically remain at the nest until all chicks have hatched and their plumage has dried (Jackson and Jackson 2000). I returned on 15 December and I saw neither the adult nor the chick. Assuming the clutch was completed on 19 November and the one egg hatched on 11 December that gives a 23-day incubation period, which is in the typical 22-28 day incubation range for this species (Jackson and Jackson 2000).

The average high temperature during this period was 16^0 C (61° F) and the average low temperature was 2^0C (37° F), however there was a significant cooling in the days prior to hatching. From 6 – 11 December, the average high was 3^0C (47° F) and the average low was 0^0 C (32° F). Bergstrom (1989) found a strong correlation between ambient temperature and egg temperature in a Killdeer nest in Virginia, and since egg temperature affects embryonic development, it is likely that the parents compensated for the cooler temperatures by spending more time incubating the eggs.

There is only one other record of a Killdeer nesting that late in Tennessee; in 2008 a nest with three eggs was found in Shelby County (Knight 2009). The nest was not monitored, so it is unknown whether any of the eggs hatched. Other November nests have been found in Mississippi, Arkansas, and South Carolina (Jackson and Jackson 2000). This account constitutes the latest successful nesting of Killdeer in Tennessee.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Sherry Ferguson of St. Stephen Catholic Church for alerting Happinest Wildlife Rescue to the presence of the nest, and Sherry Teas from Happinest who passed the information along to me.

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Figure 1. Killdeer nest with 4 eggs in Chattanooga. Photo taken by David Aborn, 20 November 2017.

ROUND TABLE NOTES

FIRST SWAINSON'S HAWK RECORD FOR MIDDLE TENNESSEE - On the afternoon of 9 March 2018 I participated in a prescribed burning operation on Fort Campbell Military Installation (Montgomery County, TN; 36° 36' 28.740, -87° 33' 43.019). While riding an ATV I saw a buteo flying low over the freshly burned field. It came towards me and landed in a nearby sweetgum tree (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). I expected it to be a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) as they typically frequent the fields when we are burning. Because of the reduced visibility from my goggles and helmet, I drove the ATV to within 20 m of the tree to get a better look. The hawk did not flush and was very tolerant of my presence; the bird remained perched when another burn crew member drove up next to me on an ATV.

I saw that the hawk did not have the distinctive belly band of a Red-tailed Hawk, but instead had a dark rufous patch on its breast. When I realized this was an interesting buteo and I did not have binoculars, I immediately took out my iPhone 6s Plus phone and snapped a few photos in the zoom mode. The long, pointed wings and slender body of the perched hawk were noticeable. When it did eventually fly from the tree, I noticed the dark remiges contrasting with the light wing linings. I did not see the bird again after it flew from the tree. Looking at the photographs (Figure 1) later provided convincing identification of a light morph Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*).

This sighting is the first Swainson's Hawk documented in middle Tennessee and the earliest spring record for the state, according to Somershoe and Sloan (2015). Swainson's Hawk is listed as a very rare transient on the Official List of Birds of Tennessee (Tennessee Birds Record Committee). The closest known record to this observation occurred in 1989 in Calloway County, Kentucky (Brainard Palmer-Ball, pers. comm.).

Swainson's Hawks, like many raptor species, are attracted to fire and prescribed burns. Migrating Swainson's Hawks were the most abundant raptor observed using prescribed fires in the Great Plains (Hovick et al. 2017). Hovick et al. (2017) concluded Swainson's Hawks, because they are opportunistic feeders that covered large distances per day in migration, developed a behavioral attraction to smoke plumes allowing them to take advantage of foraging opportunities. Swainson's Hawks have also been observed hunting over freshly burned fields in California (Estep 1989) and Texas (Baker 1940).

The field consisted primarily of native grasses, forbs, blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*), and some hardwood saplings prior to burning. There were a few scattered mature hardwood and loblolly trees (*Pinus taeda*) in the field.

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Figure 1. A light morph Swainson's Hawk photographed with an iPhone 6s Plus camera during a prescribed burning operation on Fort Campbell Military Installation (Montgomery County) 9 March 2018.

Daniel Moss, Fort Campbell, Tennessee

MINUTES OF THE FALL TOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

6 October 2018
Manchester, Tennessee

The annual Fall Meeting was held 5-7 October 2018 at The Ambassador Inn in Manchester, Tennessee and hosted by the Highland Rim Chapter. Field trips were offered to Tims Ford Lake and Woods Resevoir.

President Steve Routledge called the meeting to order at 2:40 pm. Secretary Cyndi Routledge determined there was a quorum. The minutes of the 2018 Annual Spring Board of Directors and Spring Meeting were approved as read.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS -AT-LARGE

TREASURER: Mac McWhirter reported the revenues and expenses are running as expected with no unexpected surprises in 2018. At this time the Vanguard investment portfolio is valued at approximately $372,000. This is an increase of $19,000 from the 31 December 2017 value of $353,232. We have built a sizable investment account over the years in anticipation of future partnerships for land acquisition by the Tennessee Division of Environment and Conservation, NAWCA and TWRA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: Secretary Ruben Stoll sent a report of the actions of the committee as of 30 September 2018. This report in its entirety may be found in *The Migrant*, Volume 89, No. 3, (September 2018). Current members of the committee are Phillip Casteel, Ron Hoff, Daniel Jacobson, David Kirschke (alternate) Chris Sloan, Ruben Stoll (secretary) and Terry Witt.

CONSERVATION POLICY COMMITTEE: Co-chairs of the committee are Dick Preston and Melinda Welton; members are Cyndi Routledge, Kellie Clelland, Ashley Heeney, Laura Cook, and Dev Joslin. Dick Preston reported the following action of the Committee.

- Drafted a letter to the developers of the Parkside Development in Memphis requesting incorporating bird-friendly design into the windows of the boutique hotel to reduce bird kills. This development is immediately adjacent to Shelby Farms, a major bird oasis in Shelby County. Signed by President Steve Routledge.
- Recommended TOS join with other organizations in sign-on letters to oppose harmful riders to the Farm Bill and addressing threats to the Endangered Species Act. Both approved and signed by President Steve Routledge.
- Drafted a letter for President Steve Routledge to the Secretary of the Interior. The letter

urges support for the U.S. Geographical Survey (USGS) Bird Banding Lab (BBL). The BBL faces a severe shortage of staff and funding.
- Urged the support of the House version of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which provides for continuing funding, while the Senate version does not. This act would provide Tennessee with more than $20 million per year, primarily for non-game species.

PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITE: Committee members are Chuck Nicholson, Ashley Heeney, Melinda Welton, and Rick Blanton. Ashley Heeney sent the following report that was presented by President Steve Routledge: The committee proposes building a new and modern/user-friendly website for TOS to launch at the beginning of 2019. The new site will feature current offerings, historical resources, plus highlight current chapter news and integrate with social media. The website will remain tnbirds.org. Mac McWhirter made a motion that the Executive Committee continue research, contract negotiations, and approve costs for redesign of website. Motion carried.

TNBird: President Steve Routledge reported that Rob Biller will be replace Andy Jones as a moderator of the site.

OLD BUSINESS

Discover Birds Activity Book coordinator Cyndi Routledge reported that Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) has offered up to $3000 annually for reprinting of the books. She requested that the Society match the funds set forth by TWRA so printing and distribution of the book could continue. Ron Hoff moved TOS spend up to $3000 annually to match the funds provided by TWRA in like amount until rescinded for printing of the *Discover Birds Activity Book*. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Members are Susan Hubley, Anita Gaddy, and Chair Susan McWhirter. Susan McWhirter placed in nomination Pamela Lasley of Nashville for Treasurer effective 1 January 2019, and asked that she be authorized to transact all financial matters for the Society, including, but not limited, to being the signatory on our current banking account with Regions Bank. Chris Welsh made a motion to accept the nomination and the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Cyndi Routledge, Secretary

2018 TENNESSEE FALL BIRD COUNTS

Ron Hoff
Loudon, Tennessee

There were eight Fall Bird Counts conducted this year. Participants logged just over 412 party hours in the field to find 189 species and 32,352 individuals (lowest individuals total in 11 years). The weather was mild during the count season with no major rain or wind events having an effect on the counts. Temperatures ranged from a brisk 50° F in Perry County to a very warm 92° F in Shelby County.

White Ibis, Purple Gallinule, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Purple Finch were all new species bringing the species total for the Fall Bird Count compilation to 255. Count highlights also included Gadwall, Least Bittern, Osprey (highest total in 11 years), "Traill's" Flycatcher spp, 33 species of warblers (including a Brewster's hybrid), and 843 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Loggerhead Shrike was missed for the first time on a fall count in 11 years.

Counts are placed in the table geographically from West to East. Taxonomy follows the latest revision of the AOS Checklist of North American Birds.

COUNTY SUMMERIES
(F/Y = feeder/yard watcher)

Anderson County -23 September; 0659-1424. Weather: cloudy to partly cloudy, some light rain; 68-77° F. Red-headed Woodpecker was a highlight. Observers: Eric Bodker, Doug Bruce, Chuck Estes, Melinda Fawver (compiler), Bill Keeler, Toby Koosman, Stephen J. Stedman, and Dean Turley.

Blount County – 15 September; 0600-2030. Weather: cloudy to partly cloudy; wind 0-8 mph; 65-87° F. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Sora, and Olive-sided Flycatcher were notable. Observers: Jean J. Alexander (compiler), Tiffany Beachy, Suzanne Bielenberg, Warren Bielenberg, Doug Bruce, Chuck Estes, Lola Estes, Melinda Fawver, Marian D. Fitzgerald, Tom E. Fitzgerald, Kim J. Henry, Stephen P. Henry, Thomas D. Howe, Susan Hoyle, James R. Human, David M. Johnson, Evan Kidd, Julie Labhart, Karen J. Petrey, Mary Tankersley, Harumi Tsuruoka, and Randy Winstead.

Elizabethton – 29 September; 0415-1900. Weather: partly cloudy; wind light and variable; 57-82° F. Two highlights were Purple Gallinule and Black-legged Kittiwake. Observers: Fred Alsop, Jim Anderson, Betty Bailey, Gary Bailey, Jerry Bevins, Rob Biller, Aleesha Broyles, Debbie Campbell, J. G. Campbell, Ron Carrico, Diane Draper, Glen Eller, Harry Lee Farthing, Bambi Fincher, Dave Gardner, Bill Grigsby, Paul Haynes, Jacki Hinshaw, Don Holt, Mike Hubley, Susan Hubley, Connie Irick, David Irick, David Kirschke, Rick Knight (compiler), Roy Knispel, Richard Lewis, Vern Maddux, Larry McDaniel, Joe McGuiness,

Cathy McNeil, Tom McNeil, Eric Middlemass, Charles Moore, Harry Norman, Brookie Potter, Jean Potter, Sherrie Quillen, Pete Range, Judi Sawyer, Helen Sirett, Chris Soto, Michele Sparks, Amber Stanley, Bryan Stevens, Kim Stroud, Gary Wallace, Charles Warden, Mary Anna Wheat, and Wendy Williams.

Knoxville – 29 September; 0630-1915. Weather: clear to partly cloudy; wind NW 0-5 mph; 60-85° F. Highlights were Sora, Marsh Wren, and Wilson's Warbler. Observers: Mark Armstrong, Sam Bee, Doug Bruce, Billie Cantwell, Gail Clendenen, Steve Clendenen, Howard Cox, Ellie Doughty, Melinda Fawver, Paul Hartigan, Susan Hoyle, James Human, Kristine Johnson, Jane Kading, Susie Kaplar, Jerry Ledbetter, Collin Leonard, Morton Massey, Stephany McNew, Stephanie Mueller, Talissa Ralph, Doug Raybuck, Kelly Roy, Martha Rudolph, Michael Ryon, Kurt Sickafus, Bailey Smith, Colin Sumrall, Douglas Sumrall, Michael Tenbus, Harumi Tsuruoka, Jimmy Tucker, Merikay Waldvogel, Keith Watson, and Eddy Whitson. Non-participating compiler was K. Dean Edwards.

Montgomery County – 15 September; no times given. Weather: fair; wind N 2-8 mph; 68-86° F. Highlights were Little Blue Heron, American Woodcock, and Marsh Wren. Observers: Elaine Faust, Daniel Moss (compiler), Rick Shipkowski, and Sue Shipkowski.

Nashville – 28-30 September; 0500-1800. Weather: partly cloudy to clear; 58-78° F. The count takes place over a 3 day period. Notable finds included Least Bittern, Black-billed Cuckoo, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Brewster's Warbler. Observers: Rachael Anderson, Sharon Arnold, Susan Bradfield, Trae Bradfield, Jean Buchanan, Ed Byrne, Phillip Casteel, Richard Connors, Tammy Devine, Jerry Drewry, Graham Gerdeman, Steve Goodbred, Chris Guerin, Joe Hall, Barbara Harris (compiler), Charles Newman, Giovani Ortiz, Amy Potter, Sarah Scott, Jan K. Shaw, Shelia Shay, Chris Sloan, Michael Smith, Joe Stone, Edwin Warner, Percy Warner, LinnAnn Welch, Melinda Welton, and Mary Zimmerman.

Perry County - 29 September; 0400-1920. Weather: clear; 50-80° F. Highlights included Herring Gull, Black-billed Cuckoo (new for the count), and Sedge Wren. The total for Barred Owl was a new high count for the state. Observers: Adam Beachy, Evan Beachy, Mikey Beachy, Seth Beachy, Joseph Byler, David Kinsinger, Ruben Stoll (compiler), and Victor Stoll.

Shelby County – 15 September; 0730-1830. Weather: partly cloudy; wind S 3-17 mph; 75-92° F. White Ibis and Buff-breasted Sandpiper were notable. Observers: Kenneth Bishop, Betty Blaylock, David Blaylock, Thomas Blevins, Chad Brown, Judy Dorsey, Margaret Jefferson, Georges McNeil, Mary Schmidt, Norman Soskel, Ed Thomas, Jim Varner, Jay Walko, and Jacob Wessels. Non-participating compiler was Dick Preston.

2018 Fall Bird Counts	Shelby Co.	Perry Co.	Montgomery Co.	Nashville	Anderson Co.	Blount Co.	Knox Co.	Elizabethton	Totals
Count Dates	15-Sep	9/29/2018	9/15/2018	9/28-30/2018	9/23/2018	9/15/2018	9/30/2018	9/29/2018	
Species									
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58
Canada Goose	14	76	31	108	179	64	286	781	1539
Wood Duck	18	8	28	17	-	13	19	79	182
Blue-winged Teal	114	27	-	3	-	7	27	110	288
Northern Shoveler	2	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	7
Gadwall	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Mallard	46	1	-	121	51	14	136	345	714
Common Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Northern Bobwhite	-	1	-	-	-	4	15	-	20
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Wild Turkey	-	3	20	61	3	62	41	56	246
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	9	-	2	-	32	43
Rock Pigeon	139	15	-	31	107	55	67	597	1011
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	5	-	3	-	5	-	2	15
Mourning Dove	48	185	38	104	48	246	154	330	1153
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	-	3	4	-	1	2	4	15
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Common Nighthawk	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	1	5
Chimney Swift	4	32	15	100	67	49	72	481	820
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	59	34	10	27	11	31	11	31	214
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sora	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Purple Gallinule	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
American Coot	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	8

2018 Fall Bird Counts	Shelby Co.	Perry Co.	Montgomery Co.	Nashville	Anderson Co.	Blount Co.	Knox Co.	Elizabethton	Totals
Black-necked Stilt	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Killdeer	35	25	12	31	16	6	41	43	209
Least Sandpiper	980	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	981
White-rumped Sandpiper	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pectoral Sandpiper	16	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	17
Semipalmated Sandpiper	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Western Sandpiper	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Woodcock	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	5
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
Spotted Sandpiper	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	4
Solitary Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Lesser Yellowlegs	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52
Greater Yellowlegs	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Black-legged Kittiwake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	24
Herring Gull	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Caspian Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Common Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Double-crested Cormorant	3	7	1	78	13	12	29	78	221
American White Pelican	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Least Bittern	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Great Blue Heron	12	15	1	48	8	13	26	49	172
Great Egret	14	28	1	26	1	1	4	2	77
Little Blue Heron	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Green Heron	-	6	2	-	2	3	2	2	17

2018 Fall Bird Counts	Shelby Co.	Perry Co.	Montgomery Co.	Nashville	Anderson Co.	Blount Co.	Knox Co.	Elizabethton	Totals
Black-crowned Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5	10
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	5	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	8
White Ibis	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68
Black Vulture	2	112	52	195	27	17	90	77	572
Turkey Vulture	6	178	31	81	15	51	49	203	614
Osprey	-	4	-	5	1	2	6	27	45
Northern Harrier	-	1	2	2	-	-	1	1	7
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	2	-	1	-	-	3	3	9
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	1	4	1	2	3	9	23
Bald Eagle	-	9	2	5	1	2	4	8	31
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	13	1	17	3	7	4	6	53
Broad-winged Hawk	-	70	1	427	1	4	75	321	899
Red-tailed Hawk	4	9	2	14	1	12	6	19	67
Buteo sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Eastern Screech Owl	-	3	-	5	-	2	3	24	37
Great Horned Owl	-	6	1	5	-	2	5	10	29
Barred Owl	2	25	2	6	-	-	1	5	41
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Belted Kingfisher	36	14	1	16	5	7	23	32	134
Red-headed Woodpecker	10	9	3	4	1	2	9	5	43
Red-bellied Woodpecker	48	50	17	81	33	38	100	92	459
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	4	-	4	-	-	1	5	14
Downy Woodpecker	22	35	11	57	16	20	32	59	252
Hairy Woodpecker	-	10	6	15	3	2	4	12	52
Northern Flicker	2	26	-	48	4	5	31	67	183

2018 Fall Bird Counts	Shelby Co.	Perry Co.	Montgomery Co.	Nashville	Anderson Co.	Blount Co.	Knox Co.	Elizabethton	Totals
Pileated Woodpecker	16	37	5	24	10	16	11	54	173
American Kestrel	2	8	-	11	-	3	6	13	43
Merlin	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	4
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Great Crested Flycatcher	3	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	8
Eastern Kingbird	1	-	-	3	-	1	-	9	14
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Eastern Wood-Pewee	28	137	7	56	15	9	11	15	278
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Acadian Flycatcher	28	4	3	3	1	1	1	-	41
Alder Flycatcher	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
"Traill's" Flycatcher spp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Willow Flycatcher	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Least Flycatcher	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Empidonax sp.	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	2	6
Eastern Phoebe	9	132	7	46	17	22	45	79	357
White-eyed Vireo	75	55	22	38	14	6	6	1	217
Yellow-throated Vireo	5	14	6	9	7	5	2	2	50
Blue-headed Vireo	-	14	-	-	5	6	1	21	47
Philadelphia Vireo	1	4	-	10	-	-	-	3	18
Warbling Vireo	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Red-eyed Vireo	18	11	-	10	2	2	4	4	51
Blue Jay	27	206	16	322	88	120	326	646	1751
American Crow	26	294	82	230	63	201	167	364	1427
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	7
Common Raven	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	19

2018 Fall Bird Counts	Shelby Co.	Perry Co.	Montgomery Co.	Nashville	Anderson Co.	Blount Co.	Knox Co.	Elizabethton	Totals
Purple Martin	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Tree Swallow	-	1	-	5	-	3	91	465	565
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	6	18	-	47	-	-	151	3	225
Cliff Swallow	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5
Barn Swallow	2	5	30	6	-	-	6	1	50
Carolina Chickadee	39	73	29	126	48	76	119	177	687
Tufted Titmouse	29	75	20	100	48	59	80	133	544
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	-	3	-	2	-	4	9
White-breasted Nuthatch	22	14	8	55	32	18	18	71	238
Brown-headed Nuthatch	-	-	-	-	2	10	5	-	17
Brown Creeper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
House Wren	-	1	-	9	1	1	4	4	20
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sedge Wren	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Marsh Wren	-	14	1	3	-	-	2	-	20
Carolina Wren	45	110	4	118	107	79	182	218	863
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	8	1	5	-	5	-	-	20
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	2	-	2	-	-	1	-	5
Eastern Bluebird	26	168	17	65	51	94	112	187	720
Veery	-	6	-	7	1	1	-	-	15
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	55	-	14	3	-	-	12	84
Swainson's Thrush	3	77	2	30	13	7	2	46	180
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Wood Thrush	3	20	2	15	6	6	-	9	61
American Robin	51	146	8	102	11	91	88	591	1088

2018 Fall Bird Counts	Shelby Co.	Perry Co.	Montgomery Co.	Nashville	Anderson Co.	Blount Co.	Knox Co.	Elizabethton	Totals
Gray Catbird	6	38	-	39	9	4	13	64	173
Brown Thrasher	1	36	3	22	23	11	27	23	146
Northern Mockingbird	15	52	3	57	31	50	156	111	475
European Starling	514	113	33	530	206	250	1172	1226	4044
Cedar Waxwing	-	28	14	68	231	71	11	294	717
House Sparrow	18	50	5	28	-	13	13	69	196
House Finch	6	18	5	22	6	33	76	41	207
Purple Finch	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	13
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	11
American Goldfinch	8	33	37	57	39	49	72	220	515
Eastern Towhee	2	-	7	45	9	-	36	66	165
Chipping Sparrow	15	164	26	15	2	32	2	94	350
Field Sparrow	-	35	2	23	11	19	60	16	166
Savannah Sparrow	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Song Sparrow	-	-	-	7	4	13	51	97	172
Swamp Sparrow	-	2	-	2	-	11	-	-	15
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	-	-	-	29	-	42	71
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
Bobolink	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	4
Eastern Meadowlark	-	9	-	8	-	-	16	7	40
Orchard Oriole	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Baltimore Oriole	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	4
Red-winged Blackbird	8	-	5	3	5	365	145	132	663
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	4	-	-	83	5	92

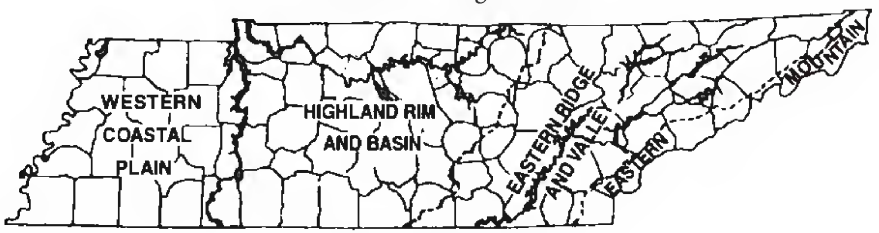
2018 Fall Bird Counts	Shelby Co.	Perry Co.	Montgomery Co.	Nashville	Anderson Co.	Blount Co.	Knox Co.	Elizabethton	Totals
Common Grackle	2	8	15	324	-	5	13	8	375
Ovenbird	-	9	-	-	-	-	1	-	10
Worm-eating Warbler	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Northern Waterthrush	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
Golden-winged Warbler	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	4
Blue-winged Warbler	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	5
Brewster's Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Black-and-white Warbler	-	15	-	16	1	1	-	7	40
Prothonotary Warbler	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Tennessee Warbler	-	154	1	51	2	2	14	42	266
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	2	6
Nashville Warbler	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	4
Mourning Warbler	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Kentucky Warbler	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Common Yellowthroat	-	53	5	26	2	4	39	9	138
Hooded Warbler	6	6	-	1	8	3	1	7	32
American Redstart	15	32	-	46	6	7	8	16	130
Cape May Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	9
Cerulean Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Parula	32	32	3	8	-	-	-	8	83
Magnolia Warbler	1	125	-	92	11	1	12	18	260
Bay-breasted Warbler	-	2	-	16	1	-	5	15	39
Blackburnian Warbler	-	2	-	6	-	-	1	8	17
Yellow Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Chestnut-sided Warbler	-	10	-	9	2	1	1	1	24
Black-throated Blue Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	5

2018 Fall Bird Counts	Shelby Co.	Perry Co.	Montgomery Co.	Nashville	Anderson Co.	Blount Co.	Knox Co.	Elizabethton	Totals
Palm Warbler	-	53	1	8	-	8	103	63	236
Pine Warbler	1	10	3	4	1	9	4	11	43
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	3	-	11	-	-	1	-	15
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	2	-	6	-	-	5	1	15
Prairie Warbler	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	3
Black-throated Green Warbler	3	9	-	13	1	-	-	7	33
Canada Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Wilson's Warbler	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	4
Warbler sp.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Summer Tanager	25	49	12	32	5	4	3	2	132
Scarlet Tanager	-	33	-	3	6	7	-	11	60
Northern Cardinal	59	232	62	164	87	65	165	149	983
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	598	-	85	8	1	26	125	843
Blue Grosbeak	-	5	1	4	-	1	3	-	14
Indigo Bunting	7	309	30	52	2	7	76	14	497
Total individuals	2886	5012	791	5089	1710	2621	4924	9283	32316
Total species	88	125	74	125	81	101	106	127	188
Observers	14	8	3	29	8	20	35	50	167
Parties	8	5	2	10	6	13	13	13	70
Party hours	29.5	48	16.5	61.35	20.04	67.42	65.28	104	412.09
Hours by car	12	18	11	15.8	6.67	18.09	14.8	-	96.36
Hours by foot	17.5	30	5.5	45.55	13.37	49.33	50.48	-	211.73
Hours by boat or other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miles by car	34.5	101	116.5	309.7	78.6	194	121	-	955.3
Miles by foot	6.75	21.5	1.5	30.09	13.02	39.5	49.82	-	162.18

2018 Fall Bird Counts	Shelby Co.	Perry Co.	Montgomery Co.	Nashville	Anderson Co.	Blount Co.	Knox Co.	Elizabethton	Totals
Miles by canoe or other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hours owling	-	4.5	0.5	3.17	-	2.17	0.67	9	20.01
Miles owling	-	6.5	-	14.1	-	1	5	-	26.6
Feeder/yard watch observers	-	-	2	2	-	8	-	-	12
Feeder/yard watch hours	-	-	1.25	-	-	5.5	2.75	-	9.5

THE SUMMER SEASON

Richard L. Knight, Editor



1 June - 31 July 2018

Heat was the main weather theme this summer with temperatures above average statewide. Rainfall, however, varied somewhat by region, although many areas were on the dry side.

A diverse group of waterbirds from ducks to spoonbills made news this summer. Common Mergansers had a productive breeding season in East Tennessee, as another brood of young in June adds to three separate broods found during spring. This large duck appears to be reclaiming historic breeding range. With only three previous summer records of Horned Grebe in Tennessee, three sightings across three regions this summer was intriguing.

Three other waterbirds once considered vagrants to Tennessee have increased dramatically in recent years. Neotropic Cormorants at Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge and Duck River Unit of the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge apparently were continuing from spring. First found in the state in 1993, this species now has been reported 31 times, of which 24 records (77%) have occurred since 2004. Neotropic Cormorants have shown expansion inland from Texas and Louisiana. How soon til they nest in Tennessee? Four Brown Pelicans this summer, scattered across three regions, constitute the most ever found in any year in Tennessee. There are now 24 records in the state, with 20 (83%) having occurred since 2002. This increase coincides with the species' recovery along the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coasts. Similarly, three sightings of Roseate Spoonbill this summer bring the state total to about 32 records, of which 27 (84%) have occurred since 2000. Both of these distinctive coastal species have shown a recent trend of increased wandering to inland areas.

Standard Abbreviations

ad - adult
Co - County
Cr - Creek
ers - earliest reported sighting
et al. - and others
im - immature
L - Lake
lrs - latest reported sighting
max - maximum count
m.ob. - many observers
Mtn - Mountain
NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
R - River
SP - State Park
WMA - Wildlife Management Area
yg - young

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION - - Few folks seemed to venture out in the heat this summer. Despite this, the season's highlights included a lingering Fulvous Whistling-Duck, a White Ibis, continued breeding by Western Kingbirds, and a trio of Bell's Vireos.

Duck - Coot: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**: thru season (max 129) Ensley (m.ob.). **Fulvous Whistling-Duck**: from May into Aug (1) Ensley (m.ob.). **Gadwall**: 4 Jun (pair) Phillipy Pits (MAG). **Blue-winged Teal**: 4 Jun (2 males) Phillipy Pits (MAG). **Northern Shoveler**: thru 10 Jun (1) Ensley (m.ob.). **Green-winged Teal**: thru 7 Jul (1) Ensley (m.ob.). **Hooded Merganser**: 27 Jun (1 hen, 3 yg) Obion Co (MAG). **American Coot**: 13 Jun (2) Beech L, Henderson Co (VS).

Plover - Tern: **Piping Plover**: 27 Jul (1) Fritz Landing (MAG). **Upland Sandpiper**: 28 Jul (1) Ensley (DDP). **Ruddy Turnstone**: 27 Jul (4) Fritz Landing (MAG). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 10 Jul (1) Ensley (MCT, GG), ers. **Sanderling**: 23 / 27 Jul (1 / 8) Tiptonville Bar, Lake Co (MAG); 27 Jul (3) Fritz Landing (MAG). **Dunlin**: 24 Jul (1) Ensley (DDP). **Least Sandpiper**: 19 Jun (1) Phillipy Pits (MAG); 30 Jun (2) Ensley (MCT). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 2 Jun (5) Ensley (Virginia Reynolds), lrs. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: 10 Jul (1) Ensley (MCT, GG), ers. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: 19 Jun / 10 Jul (2 / 4) Ensley (Tom McNeil, Cathy McNeil / MCT, GG), lrs / ers. **Western Sandpiper**: 10 Jul (3) Ensley (MCT, GG), ers. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 28 Jul (2) Ensley (DDP), ers. **Willet**: 27 Jul (1) Fritz Landing (MAG). **Ring-billed Gull**: 18 / 28 Jul (23 / 260) Paris Landing SP, Henry Co (JH, SA). **Least Tern**: 27 Jul (325 +) Tiptonville Bar, Lake Co (MAG), max. **Caspian Tern**: 13 Jun (1) Beech L, Henderson Co (VS); 21 Jun (1) Paris Landing SP, Henry Co (JH, DR); 16 Jul (1) Gibson Co L (MAG).

Anhinga - Falcon: **Anhinga**: 30 Jun (8) Ensley (MCT). **American White Pelican**: 9 Jun (17) Britton Ford, Henry Co (JH); 3 Jul (2) Reelfoot L, Lake Co (MAG); 21 Jul (2) Eagle Cr, Henry Co (SA, JH). **White Ibis**: 24 Jun (1 im) Hog Cr Bottoms, Decatur Co (RS). **Mississippi Kite**: 19 Jun (32) Hwy 641, Benton Co (Shawna Ellis); 27 Jun (15) Maness Swamp Refuge, Gibson Co (MAG). **Peregrine Falcon**: 9 Jun (1) Henry Co (JH).

Flycatcher - Bunting: **Willow Flycatcher**: 5 Jun (1) T.O. Fuller SP, Shelby Co (Bob Foehring); 8 Jun (1) Milan, Gibson Co (Maureen Ellis); 1 Jul (1) Shelby Co (Andrew Meiborg). **Western Kingbird**: thru Jul (4+) President's Island, Shelby Co (m.ob.), with 1 ad + 4 yg on 25 Jun (Bob Zaremba); thru Jul (2-3) Ensley (m.ob.), with a pair + 1 yg on 10 Jul (MCT, GG); 7 Jul (5) North Treatment Plant, Shelby Co (RS). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 9 Jun (1) Ensley (David Grant). **Bell's Vireo**: 14 Jun (3) Bogota WMA, Dyer Co (RS, VS), continuing from May. **Lark Sparrow**: thru Jun and Jul (1-2 at several sites) Gibson Co (MAG); 4 Jun (2) Fayette Co (Rob Harbin); 6 / 29 Jun (1) Crockett Co (Damien Simbeck); 6 Jun (2) Haywood Co (Damien Simbeck). **Painted Bunting**: 10 Jul (2 males, 1 female) Ensley and (1 male) TVA Lake, Shelby Co (MCT, GG).

Locations: Ensley - Shelby Co; Fritz Landing - Lake Co; Phillipy Pits - Lake Co.

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HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN - - Weather this summer has been hot and relatively dry. June temperatures averaged 4 degrees above normal, while July was 2.3 degrees above normal. Precipitation amounts were slightly below normal both months. Highlights this summer included Neotropic Cormorant, Brown Pelican, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, and Red Crossbill.

Duck - Coot: **Blue-winged Teal**: 20 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (AT), ers. **Gadwall**: thru 20 Jul (1-3) Duck R Unit (RS, AT). **Ring-necked Duck**: thru 15 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (RS, AT); thru 2 Jul (1) Pickwick L (AT et al.). **Lesser Scaup**: 13-22 Jun (1) Pickwick L (RS, AT). **Bufflehead**: thru 22 Jun (1) Pickwick L (AT, RS). **Hooded Merganser**: thru 2 Jul (1) Pickwick L (RS et al.); 5 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (RS). **Ruddy Duck**: 5-12 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (DR). **Northern Bobwhite**: 28 Jun (19) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo), max. **Pied-billed Grebe**: 30 May / 30 Jun (1-2) Old Hickory L, Davidson Co (Michael Smith, Phillip Casteel / JH); thru 2 Jul (1-4) Pickwick L (RS, AT et al.); 21 Jun (1) Cross Cr NWR (JH, DR). **Horned Grebe**: 17 Jul (1) Edgar Evins SP, DeKalb Co (Mark Taylor, photo). **American Coot**: 1 Jun / 27 Jul / 7 Aug (2 ad with 1-4 yg) Centennial Park, Davidson Co (Peter Kondrashov / Sandra Zabala / GG); thru 2 Jul (1-3) Pickwick L (AT, RS).

Plover - Tern: **Semipalmated Plover**: 3 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (RS), ers. **Upland Sandpiper**: 26 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (refuge staff). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 20 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (AT), ers; 21 Jul (1) Fowler Rd, Lincoln Co (DSn). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 10 Jun (1) Duck R Unit (RS, AT, David Kinsinger), lrs. **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: 10 Jun (1) Duck R Unit (RS, AT, David Kinsinger), lrs. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 14 Jul (1) Barkley WMA, Stewart Co (JH). **Wilson's Snipe**: 8 Jul (1) Cross Cr NWR (SR, CR), ers. **Spotted Sandpiper**: 3 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (RS), ers. **Solitary Sandpiper**: 4 Jul (1) Dickson Co (DR), ers. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 3 Jul (25) Duck R Unit (RS), ers. **Greater Yellowlegs**: 3 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (RS), ers. **Laughing Gull**: 13-14 Jun (1 ad) Pickwick L (RS, AT). **Ring-billed Gull**: 30 Jun (4) Drake's Cr, Old Hickory L, Sumner Co (GG). **Herring Gull**: 13-14 Jun (1 im) Pickwick L (RS, AT). **Least Tern**: 9 Jun (1) Duck R Unit (RS). **Caspian Tern**: 9-10 Jun / 5 Jul (1-4) Duck R Unit (AT, RS / DR); 13 Jun (2) Pickwick L (RS); 21 Jul (2) Fowler Rd, Lincoln Co (DSn). **Black Tern**: 21 Jun (1) Cross Cr NWR (JH, DR).

Loon - Falcon: **Common Loon**: 13 Jun (4) Pickwick L (RS); 26 Jun (1) Center Hill L, DeKalb Co (Mark Taylor); 26 Jun (1) Gray's Landing, Kentucky L, Stewart Co (DR). **Neotropic Cormorant**: 18 / 23 Jul (1 / 2) Cross Cr NWR (SA, photo); 21 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (SA, JH, photo). **Anhinga**: 21 Jun (1, flying over) Perry Co (RS). **Brown Pelican**: 13 Jun (1) Pickwick Dam (RS, photo); 30 Jun (1) Drake's Cr, Old Hickory L, Sumner Co (Paul Latour, m.ob., photo). **American White Pelican**: 12 Jun - 2 Jul (3-18) Pickwick L (RS, AT); thru Jul (up to 60) Duck R Unit (RS, AT). **Least Bittern**: 16 Jun / 24 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (DR). **Great Egret**: 12 Jul (550) Duck R Unit (DR), max. **White Ibis**: 6 / 10 Jul (1 im) Duck R Unit (RS, DR). **Roseate Spoonbill**: 3 Jul (2) Cross Cr NWR (DR, photo). **Mississippi Kite**: 2 Jun (1) Lawrence Co (CR, SR); 2 Jun - 30 Jul (6 reports of 1-3 birds) Montgomery Co (CR, SR, JH, Stefan Woltmann); 9 Jun (1) Duck R Unit (RS); 19 Jun - 13 Jul (3 reports) Dickson Co (RS,

DR, Jim Peters); 20 Jul (1) Johnsonville SP, Humphreys Co (AT). **Peregrine Falcon**: 31 Jul (1) Duck R Unit (refuge staff).

Flycatcher - Dickcissel: **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 9 Jun (3, nest) Lytle Cr Rd, Rutherford Co (Justin Nation); 13 Jun (2 pair) Clifton, Wayne Co (RS); 13 Jun (5) Savannah Bottoms, Hardin Co (RS); 17 Jun (1, nest) Bobo Rd, Wilson Co (MCT); 22 Jun (2) Pickwick L (RS); 21 Jul (15, ad + im) Wartrace, Bedford Co (Melissa Turrentine), apparently 2-3 family groups. **Loggerhead Shrike**: 1 Jun (pair, 4 yg) Lincoln Co (SR, CR). **Bell's Vireo**: 4 Jun (1) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo). **Red Crossbill**: 4 Jun (10) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo); 24 Jun (1) Perry Co (RS). **Bachman's Sparrow**: 28 Jun (1) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo). **Lark Sparrow**: 4-20 Jun (1-3) Rush Rd, Franklin Co (DSn); 9 Jun / 30 Jul (2 / 4) Lincoln Co (DSn / Evan Buck); 13 Jun (4) Savannah Bottoms, Hardin Co (RS); 24 Jun (1) Nashville Speedway, Wilson Co (EBo); 29 Jun (1) Lytle Cr Rd, Rutherford Co (DR); 15 Jul (1) Nolensville, Williamson Co (Hugh Barger). **Henslow's Sparrow**: 4 Jun (3) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo); 11 Jun (4) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Hooded Warbler**: 1 Jul (1) Rutherford Co (Daniel Estabrooks). **American Redstart**: 16 Jun (6) White Oak Rd, Houston Co (RS, VS). **Cerulean Warbler**: 16 Jun (3) White Oak Rd, Houston Co (RS, VS). **Yellow Warbler**: 23 Jun (pair, carrying food and fecal sacs) Shelton Ferry WMA, Montgomery Co (Stefan Woltmann). **Dickcissel**: 4 Jun (15) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo), max.

Locations: Cross Cr NWR - Stewart Co; Duck R Unit - unit of Tennessee NWR, Humphreys Co; Fort Campbell - Montgomery Co (unless specified otherwise); Pickwick L - Hardin Co.

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CUMBERLAND PLATEAU / RIDGE and VALLEY REGION - - This summer was hotter than normal. Rainfall amounts varied; for example, Johnson City received nearly twice as much rain as Tri-cities airport, just 15 miles away. On the whole, precipitation was slightly above average across the region.

A brood of juvenile Common Mergansers on the Watauga River in Washington County was the fourth brood found in East Tennessee this year. A Horned Grebe photographed on Norris Lake was among few summer records in the state. Shorebird highlights included a late north-bound White-rumped Sandpiper and two south-bound Willets. Two separate Laughing Gulls were seen in the region. Both North American pelican species occurred at Chickamauga Lake. Two reports each of Tricolored Heron and Roseate Spoonbill were remarkable, while two reports of White Ibis were more expected.

Nesting Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were observed in Marion, Bledsoe, and Cumberland counties. The latter represents a first breeding record in that county. Common Ravens in Scott and Morgan counties were notable. Impressive numbers of Dickcissels occurred this spring and summer.

Goose - Coot: **Greater White-fronted Goose**: 22 Jun (1) John Sevier L (SHu, photo). **Gadwall**: 12 Jun (1) Gupton Wetland, Roane Co (Ron Hoff, Dollyann Myers). **Blue-winged Teal**: 3-27 Jun (1 male) Brainerd Levee, Hamilton Co (Michael Yablick, BD); 24 Jun (pair) South Mouse Cr, Bradley Co (Rick Houlk). **Redhead**: 8 Jul (1 male) Watts Bar L, Rhea Co (RSh, DSh, photo). **Ring-necked Duck**: 12 Jun (1) Nickajack L, Marion Co (Nancy Robb, photo). **Hooded Merganser**: 14 Jun (2 females) Chester Frost Park, Hamilton Co (S.K. Jones). **Common Merganser**: 23 Jun (female with 7 yg) Watauga R, at Austin Springs, Washington Co (David Kirschke); 22 Jul - 4 Aug (1 female-type) South Holston R, Kingsport, Sullivan Co (Rack Cross, m.ob.). **Pied-billed Grebe**: 23 Jul (1) Ponderosa L, Scott Co (Betty Dunn), ers. **Horned Grebe**: 17 Jun (1, breeding plumage) Norris L, Union Co (Laura Tappan, photo). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 9 Jun (1) Upper Buffalo Cr Valley, Scott Co (Charles Nicholson). **American Coot**: 14 Jun (1) Chester Frost Park, Hamilton Co (S.K. Jones); thru season (1, injured) Gupton Wetland, Roane Co (RoK, EBo).

Plover - Osprey: **Semipalmated Plover**: 20 Jun (1) John Sevier L (SHu). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 12 Jul (2) John Sevier L (SHu); 18 Jul (1) Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, Anderson Co (Bates Estabrooks). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 20 Jun (1) John Sevier L (SHu), lrs. **Willet**: 14 Jul (1) Tennessee R, Hamilton Co (BD); 31 Jul (1) Paddle Cr pond, Sullivan Co (Rob Biller, Ron Carrico et al.). **Greater Yellowlegs**: 26-27 Jun (1) Brainerd Levee, Hamilton Co (BD), ers. **Laughing Gull**: 4 Jun (1 im) Chickamauga L (BD); 3 Jul (1 ad) L Tansi, Cumberland Co (EKL). **Ring-billed Gull**: 11 Jun (1) Fort Loudoun L, Loudon Co (David Vogt). **Caspian Tern**: 17 Jun (1) Fort Patrick Henry L, Sullivan Co (Bambi Fincher, Sherrie Quillen). **Forster's Tern**: 4 Jun (1) Chickamauga L (BD). **Brown Pelican**: 6 Jun (1 im) Chickamauga L (BD). **American White Pelican**: 18 Jun (14, flying over) Chickamauga L (S. K. Jones). **Least Bittern**: 8 / 31 Jul (1) John Sevier L (SHu). **Great Egret**: 23 Jun (30) John Sevier L (SHu), max. **Little Blue Heron**: 28 Jun - 2 Jul (1) Amnicola Marsh, Hamilton Co (BD, m.ob.); 13 Jul (1 im) John Sevier L (SHu); 16 Jul (1 im) Snow Hill, Hamilton Co (Rick Houlk); 17 Jul (1 im) Heritage Center Greenway, Roane Co (RoK); 27 Jul (1 im) Nolichucky R mouth, Hamblen Co (Ron Shrieves). **Tricolored Heron**: 25 Jul into Aug (1 im) John Sevier L (SHu); 30 Jul into Aug (1 im) Paddle Cr pond, Sullivan Co (Adrianna Nelson, m.ob.). **Cattle Egret**: 29 Jul (1) John Sevier L (SHu). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: thru season (2 pair, nest) Maryville Greenway, Blount Co (Evan Kidd, m.ob.); 3 Jun (2) Baum's L, Knox Co (Susan Hoyle); 14-18 Jul (1) Sevierville, Sevier Co (Ryan Trenkamp, m.ob.). **White Ibis**: 4 Jul (1 sub-adult) Candies Cr, Meigs Co (Jeffrey Schaarschmidt et al.); 21 Jul (3 im) Birchwood, Meigs Co (Charles Murray). **Roseate Spoonbill**: 7 Jun (1) Grasshopper Rd, Hamilton Co (Charles Murray); 17 Jun (4) French Broad R, about a mile downstream from Seven Islands SP, Knox Co (Karen Wilkinson, photo). **Barn Owl**: 30 Jul (2 ad, 2 yg) Roane Co (RoK). **Osprey**: 30 Jun (3 nests with yg) Kingsport (Bambi Fincher, Sherrie Quillen), still a scarce breeder in NE Tenn.

Flycatcher - Dickcissel: **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 20-21 Jun (pair, nest) Ketner Mill Rd, Marion Co (RSh, DSh / BD); 20 Jun (3) Swafford Chapel, Bledsoe Co (Dawn Greenway); 22 Jun / 13 Jul (pair, nest / 2 ad, 3 yg) Ninemile Crossroad, Bledsoe Co (RSh, DSh / EKL); 14-23

Jul (1-2, active nest) Dunbar Rd, Cumberland Co (EKL, Pam Barrett, photo). **Loggerhead Shrike**: 10 Jun (2 ad, 2 yg) Ooltewah, Hamilton Co (BD); 13 Jul (2 ad, 2 yg) Bledsoe Co (EKL). **Warbling Vireo**: 7 Jun (1, audio recording) Roane Co (RoK); 21 Jun (1) Mossy Cr, Jefferson Co (EBo). **Fish Crow**: thru season (1-3) Johnson City and Kingsport (m.ob.). **Common Raven**: 6 Jun / 8 Jul (1) Johnson City (RLK); 16 Jun (1) Bays Mtn, Sullivan Co (Sherrie Quillen); 18 Jun (1) Hwy 297, eastern Scott Co (Betty Dunn); 25 Jun (2) Frozen Head SP (RoK). **Veery**: 6 Jun (2) Frozen Head SP (RoK). **Savannah Sparrow**: thru season (pair) / 11 Jul (2 ad, 2 yg) Conklin, Washington Co (RLK), regular breeding site; 14 Jun (8) Morgan / Fentress Co line (RoK). **Nashville Warbler**: 16 Jul (1, singing) UT campus, Knox Co (Colin Sumrall). **Cerulean Warbler**: 26 Jul (2) Kingsport (PGR), migrants. **Blackburnian Warbler**: 15 Jun (1) Cross Mtn, Campbell Co (Bates Estabrooks). **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 15 Jun / 8 Jul (1) Cross Mtn, Campbell Co (Bates Estabrooks / EBo). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 6 Jun (3) Frozen Head SP (RoK). **Dickcissel**: widely reported following a strong spring showing; reports from 12 counties, mainly in southern part of region (Bledsoe, Blount, Bradley, Cumberland, Greene, Loudon, Marion, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Roane, and Washington Cos); 12 Jun (10 at 3 sites) Bradley Co (RSh, DSh), max.

Locations: Chickamauga L - Hamilton Co; Frozen Head SP - Morgan Co; John Sevier L - Hawkins Co.

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION - - It was a hotter than normal summer with rainfall slightly below normal. The two broods of Common Mergansers found in the spring were observed throughout the summer. A regional first Brown Pelican was found. Several high elevation breeders are highlighted in this report.

Merganser - Sapsucker: **Common Merganser**: 17 Jun (10) Metcalf Bottoms, Blount Co (Janie Finch); 31 Jul (10) Townsend, Blount Co (Randy Winstead). **Horned Grebe**: 4 Jul (2) South Holston L, Sullivan Co (Mike Sanders, Gary Cooper). **Mourning Dove**: thru season (2) Carver's Gap on Roan Mtn (RLK), regular site, but unusual at high elevation. **BROWN PELICAN**: 16 Jun (1) Watauga L, Carter Co (Odes Roberson, photo), first regional record. **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: 29 Jun (1 im) Tricorner Knob, GSMNP (MGH). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: 19 Jul (pair with 2 recently fledged yg) Watauga Point, Carter Co (RLK), second year nesting at this site. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: 6 / 9 Jun (1) Roan Mtn (RLK); 9 Jun (3) Ripshin L, Carter Co (Fred Alsop, Kevin Brooks); 16 Jun (1) Unaka Mtn (Glen Eller, PGR, Harry Lee Farthing, Jerry Bevins); 16 Jun (2) Iron Mtn Gap, Unicoi Co (Bryan Stevens).

Flycatcher - Warbler: **Alder Flycatcher**: thru season (2) Carver's Gap on Roan Mtn (RLK et al.). **Hermit Thrush**: thru season (2-4) Roan Mtn (RLK); early Jun (3) Roger's Ridge, Johnson Co (Joe McGuiness); 16 Jun (4) Unaka Mtn (PGR); fairly common thru

season along the Appalachian Trail in the GSMNP (MGH). **House Finch**: 9 Jun (2 pairs, at feeders) Roan Mtn at 4450 ft (RLK), unusual at high elevation. **Red Crossbill**: 7 Jun (2) Clingman's Dome, GSMNP (MGH); 9 / 22 Jun (1 / 8) Roan Mtn (RLK / Larry McDaniel, Roy Knispel et al). **Pine Siskin**: thru season (2-6, at feeders) Roan Mtn at 4450 ft elevation (RLK et al.); 7 Jun (3) Clingman's Dome, GSMNP (MGH). **Chipping Sparrow**: 9 Jun (1) Roan Mtn at 6100 ft (RLK), unusual at high elevation. **Vesper Sparrow**: 6 Jun thru season (1) Round Bald on Roan Mtn (RLK et al.). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: 9 Jun (1) Elizabethton airport, Carter Co (Brookie Potter, Jean Potter); 16 Jun (1) near town of Unicoi, Unicoi Co (Joe McGuiness); few recent records in these two Cos. **Brown-headed Cowbird**: 9 Jun (1 female) Roan Mtn at 4450 ft (RLK), unusual at high elevation. **Prothonotary Warbler**: 8 Jun (1) Chota Refuge, Monroe Co (Shelley Rutkin). **Cerulean Warbler**: 28 Jul (1) Pittman Center, Sevier Co (Keith Watson), a migrant. **Magnolia Warbler**: 6 Jun thru season (1-2 males) Roan Mtn (RLK); 16 Jun (1 male) Unaka Mtn (Glen Eller, PGR, Harry Lee Farthing, Jerry Bevins); 30 Jun (1-2 males) Mt Guyot, GSMNP (MGH); 15 Jul (1 male)Yellow Cr Gap, GSMNP (MGH). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: 6 Jun thru season (1 male) Roan Mtn (RLK); 7 Jun (6 males) within 2 miles of the summit of Clingman's Dome along the Appalachian Trail, GSMNP (MGH); 30 Jun (1) Tricorner Knob, GSMNP (MGH); 15 Jul (1) Mt Guyot, GSMNP (MGH); 15 Jul (1) Yellow Cr Gap, GSMNP (MGH).

Locations: GSMNP - Great Smoky Mtns National Park; Roan Mtn - Carter Co; Unaka Mtn - Unicoi Co.

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Observers

SA - Sharon Arnold
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BD - Bruce Dralle
GG - Graham Gerdeman
MAG - Mark A. Greene
JH - Joe Hall
MGH - Michael G. Harvey
SHu - Susan Hubley
RLK - Richard L. Knight
RoK - Roger Kroodsma
EKL - Edmund K. LeGrand
DMo - Daniel Moss
DDP - Dick D. Preston
PGR - Peter G. Range
DR - Daniel Redwine
CR - Cyndi Routledge
SR - Steve Routledge
DSh - Debbie Shannon
RSh - Roi Shannon
DSn - Dan Snell
RS - Ruben Stoll
VS - Victor Stoll
MCT - Michael C. Todd
AT - Alan Troyer

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